The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
January 28, 2000

Oh where, oh where has our dino bone gone?

Everyone should be aware by now that on Wednesday, January 19, The Field Museum's Brachiosaurus arrived in its new home in the United Terminal at O'Hare airport. If you haven't yet noticed the empty space at the north end of Stanley Field Hall, you need to get out of your office more often!

In 1993, The Field Museum organized a "Buy-a-Bone" campaign, giving the public the opportunity to support the installation of the dinosaur. Donors "bought" bones with donations from $5 for a tooth up to $1,000 for the skull. This project was a big hit with the public and the Museum raised $135,239. The 8,600 sponsors were listed at the base of the display in Stanley Field Hall.

This sponsor list now appears at O'Hare on a new sign adjacent to the Brachiosaurus in United Concourse B. "Buy-a-Bone" sponsors are listed alphabetically in separate categories, according to the specific bone they sponsored. In addition, the "Buy-a-Bone" sponsor list is posted on the Museum's website (www.fieldmuseum.org) via a direct link from our home page.

Museum visitors who want to see the names may access our website at the computer kiosk currently located in the Searle Lounge at the north end of the upper level. Eventually this kiosk will move, when work begins on installing Sue's skull in this space. We will make an announcement of the new computer kiosk location in the future. And, of course, if visitors are lonely for the Brachiosaurus, we have another one located on our northwest terrace.

There is a sign at the north end of Stanley Field Hall to inform visitors of these changes and the Visitor Services representatives know about the situation and are prepared to answer visitors' questions.

If anyone has additional questions, especially about the "Buy-a-Bone" program, please refer them to Susan VandenBosch in the Development department by e-mail or phone, ext. 7785.

FIELD NOTES

Week of January 31

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Public Events/Campus Events

An Evening with Wole Soyinka
- Thursday, 6:30 p.m., JST

African Heritage Festival begins
- Saturday through Tuesday

Talking Roots: A Poetry Happening
- Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

The **Natural News** is published every Friday and edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Send stories, artwork, ideas to patience@fmnh.org or call ext. 7286. The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

Third time's the charm...

Rob McMillan, ECP's administrative assistant and contact person, can ACTUALLY be reached at extension 7430. Sorry, Rob and everyone for the various misprints.

New vending machines

Over the last several weeks, we have installed new vending machines on the lower level. We hope that you are enjoying the new snacks! Occasionally, a machine will jam and not function properly. If you notice an out of order machine, please contact Gale Asikin at ext. 7935 immediately.

We ask that you not tape ANY hand-written signs on any of the vending machines. Thanks.

Submitted by Laura Sadler

Educational Assistance Committee to meet

The Educational Assistance Committee will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday February 8. Staff members who have not submitted proof of completion for courses taken in 1999 are strongly urged to do so immediately. The committee will also begin to review applications for 2000 at this time. Please submit your materials by Friday, February 4 to Maria Burns in Human Resources, ext. 7274.

Submitted by Randy Strickland, Committee Chair

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS / EDUCATION

Feinman takes hundreds on China expedition (electronically)

"When I was a child in the 1950s and 1960s, I sometimes thought about the year 2000. What would I be doing, where would I be?" Gary Feinman, chair of Anthropology, never imagined he would spend the dawn of the year 2000 discovering and mapping out ancient archaeological sites in China. Nor did he expect more than a hundred students to share electronically in these discoveries.

Feinman began the new year as part of a Sino-American team doing archaeological work in Rizhao, Shandong, a part of rural China where few Americans were allowed to set foot 15 years ago. As part of a pilot program coordinated by the Field Expedition Company, The Field Museum's educational technology program, students from twenty schools electronically received field updates from Feinman while he was in China.

From the feedback we have received from teachers, Feinman's field work was a starting point for many students' own exploration of anthropology. For example, Kathy LaRocco, a teacher from St. Bruno School, commented, "*Feinman in China* was a wonderful experience for our students. They eagerly awaited each of the field updates, charted where he was, and had many lively discussions based on what was written. It was a revelation to some of them to find that fieldwork did not resemble Indiana Jones movie. Other students started investigating the field of anthropology because they thought that kind of work would be very 'cool'."

Leslie Hampton, an after-school program coordinator at the YMCA, said about the *Feinman in China* updates, "We had a great time in our after-school program and we were able to expand the field updates into an entire unit about the area and culture. It was great to see our inner-city children excited about learning."

Gary Feinman's initiative took Chicago students with him to China. Through his field updates, students and teachers enjoyed descriptive accounts of fieldwork, shared his discoveries of ancient sites, and gained insight into the world of anthropology and Chinese culture and life. We hope to offer students more educational opportunities like this—opportunities to connect with Field Museum scientists and get the latest news from the field.

Submitted by Raissa José

KAFFEEKLATSCH

Minutes from January 2000 meeting

Nancy Dedakis, General Counsel's office: The Field Museum welcomes the following new trustees:

1. **Norman R. Bobins**, President and Chief Executive Officer, LaSalle Bank.
2. **Michelle L. Collins**, Partner and Co-founder, Svoboda, Collins, LLC, a private equity firm.
3. **Harlow N. Higinbotham**, Vice President and Chief Economist, A.T. Kearney, Inc., a Chicago-based management consulting firm. Mr. Higinbotham's great-great grandfather was the second President of The Field Museum from 1898 to 1909.
4. **Mellody L. Hobson**, Senior Vice President, Ariel Capital Management, Inc. and Ariel Mutual Funds.

Lorraine Petkus, Finance: Finance will complete year end close by the end of January. Lorraine advised those who handle departmental budgets to look at their encumbrance reports.

Chris Ochos, Protection Services: Richard Kostelnik is the new division manager in the Protection Services department. Chris will contact Susan Webb and Diane White to discuss feedback from members on the new procedures for members admission.

Johanna Krynytzky, Education: Adult classes and workshops will start in January. Contact the Education department for more information if you are interested.

Carter O'Brien, Geology: There will be two new people in Dino Lab, Jim Holstein and Allison Smith. SUE is done and is now in the mounting shop. Jennifer Moerman is working on the SUE skull cast for research.

Randy Scalf, Membership: Upcoming events for members are listed below:

Dead Sea Scroll Preview	March 8 & 9	10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Members Night	June 8 & 9	
Star Wars Preview	July 14 to 21 and July 23	

**Additional preview information is listed in the latest edition of In The Field.*

Cynthia Gulley, Membership: Membership has had a successful year, is welcoming new staff to the Membership department and preparing for the upcoming Member's Previews. The Membership department is concentrating on building Membership in the new year.

Marilyn Martinson, Human Resources: Payroll will be processed in-house effective January 1, 2000. Checks have changed in format with the Field Museum's logo, changing icons, and colors being added. A memo explaining the new format was attached to the 1/14/00 paychecks.

The Field Museum's **Family Admission Card** will also be updated to include the Field Museum colors and logo. The new card will be printed on thick plastic stock similar to a credit card. The cards for 1998-1999 will be honored until new cards are issued in late January or early February 2000.

The **departmental numbering scheme** has changed. All department numbers will now be five digits instead of three. The new numbering scheme will allow departments to track information in a more efficient manner. Contact Finance if you have questions regarding the new numbering scheme.

The new Vice President of Museum Affairs is **Kathleen Costello.** Kathleen comes to the Museum after 18 years with American Express.

Member's rates will increase in the year 2000.

Suggestions from the Suggestion Box

There were no suggestions this month. If you have any suggestions/comments, please submit them in the suggestion box by the operator on the ground floor.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Meet the mountmaker!

The first of three brown bag lunches with Sue as the focus will be held next Thursday, February 3, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Zoology classroom.

Barbara Ciega, Senior Exhibit Developer on the Sue project, will provide an overview of the Sue exhibit development process and schedule. And a very special guest, Phil Fraley, mountmaker extraordinaire, will talk about the challenge of designing and fabricating a mount for Sue's bones that is a work of art in its own right. With many years of experience in mounting fossils both at the American Museum of Natural History and at his own New Jersey-based studio, Phil has unusual depth of knowledge and expertise to share with us.

Please join us for an interesting, informal, and informative lunchtime discussion !

Submitted by Maureen King
Sue Project Events and Communications Coordinator

Meet the candidate! Or better yet, BE the candidate!

The Chicago Public School system is recruiting candidates to run for local school councils and has asked for our support. Local school councils are key to improving the quality of life in Chicago. As a council member, you will have a direct impact on your neighborhood, as well as the opportunity to develop personal and leadership skills.

Every resident of Chicago is eligible: Each public school is governed by its own council, comprised of two community members who live within the school's attendance area, six parents of students, the school principal, and two teachers. Candidate registration runs through the end of February. Elections are April 5 & 6. The Chicago Public Schools will "hold your hand" throughout your election campaign and The Field Museum will be rooting for you.

This is not just another way to help the FM-CPS partnership—it's being a good citizen. For more information, to request an information packet, or to schedule an information session with public school representatives, please call Alexander Sherman at x7217 or email at asherman@fmnh.org.

Feel the burn!

If your New Year's Resolution was to get in shape and be healthier in the new millennium ... take advantage of the Museum's exercise program!!

Tae Bo
Mondays 5-6 pm

Aerobics
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5-6 pm

All Classes are FREE! Classes are held by the Ground Floor East Stairwell (outside the Siragusa Center) unless otherwise noted.

EXHIBITS

New temporary exhibition assignments

Sadly, René Arceo, one of the coordinators of temporary exhibitions, has left the Museum to take a job with Chicago Public Schools. However, some of you will certainly cross paths with him in his new job, as he will be working on collaborations betwen CPS and cultural institutions in the city. We wish him the best of luck.

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition has been taken over by Ariel Orlov at ext. 7370, **Kachinas** will now fall to David Foster at ext. 7373, and until a new coordinator is hired, please direct all questions related to **Chocolate** to Abigail Sinwell at ext. 7375.

MASKS

FACES OF CULTURE

A security notice for all Museum staff

On Tuesday, January 25 the Exhibits department began the installation of **Masks: Faces of Culture** in the Ground Level Special Exhibits Gallery near **Underground Adventure.** The Staff Preview is scheduled for Friday, February 18. The show will run from February 19 to May 14.

We're doing something very unusual with this exhibition: the curators of The Saint Louis Art Museum have allowed us to begin the exhibition experience out in front of the glass wall that closes off the exhibit hall. At the foot of the stairwell, three large platforms will display a selection of eye-catching, full-size masked costumes under dramatic theatrical lighting. They will not be protected by glass or security barriers.

Technically, these costumes are not "artifacts." They were commissioned by The Saint Louis Art Museum specifically for this exhibition, from various cultures around the world where masking traditions are still practiced. Like all artifacts, however, the costumes can be damaged and should not be touched. Visitors will not be allowed on the platforms and no food or drink may be carried near the exhibits.

All Museum staff should be aware of the presence of these figures, share that awareness with others in their department, and also be aware of how visitors react when they enter this space and encounter the exhibits. Together we can add many eyes and ears to help the Security and Visitor Services floor staff assure the safety of the costumes.

Don't miss the Staff Preview for **Masks: Faces of Culture** on Friday, February 18. This unique exhibition promises to be fun, colorful, informative and exciting.

Submitted by David Foster

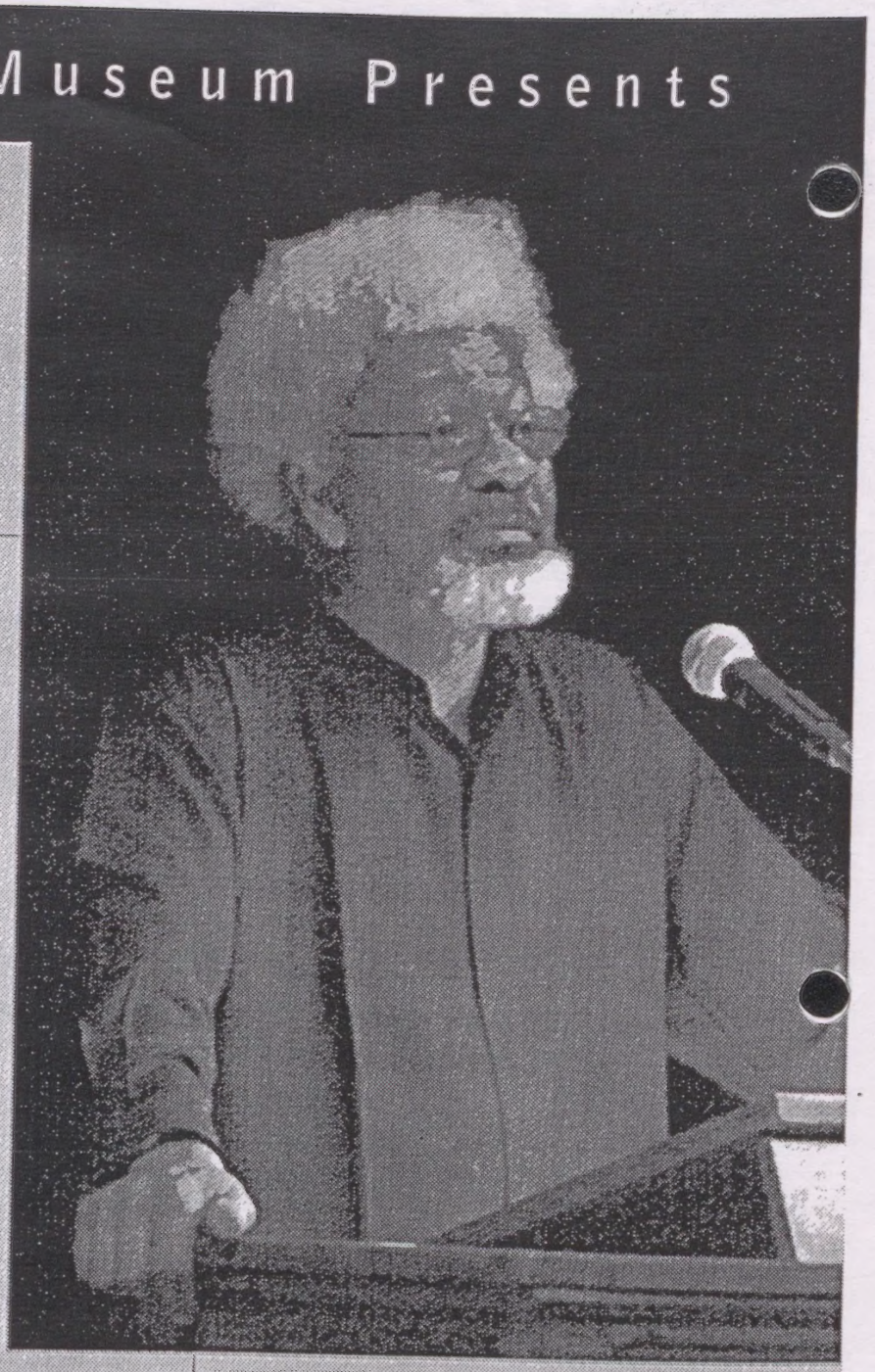
The Field Museum Presents

African Heritage
Festival 2000: Talking Roots

Voices from the Field
Keynote Lecture Series
An Evening with

Wole Soyinka

Introduction by
Haki R. Madhubuti



Wole Soyinka, the first Nigerian and African to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, has been called "an outspoken, daring public figure deeply engaged in the main political issues of his country and Africa..." In 1967, Soyinka appealed for a cease-fire to the civil war that was ravaging his country and, as a result, was arrested, accused of conspiring with the rebels and held as a political prisoner for two years. He is the author of critically acclaimed plays and essay collections, including *A Dance of the Forests, Myth Literature and the African World* and *The Burden of Memory, The Muse of Forgiveness.* In addition to his work in the arts, Soyinka has become a symbol for human rights throughout the world and has been cited for excellence by Amnesty International. Soyinka is currently the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of the Arts at Emory University in Atlanta. He will discuss "The Writer and Politician - The End of an African Honeymoon."

Additional Lectures in The Voices from the Field Series

Anna Quindlen	*February, 29; 6:00 p.m*
Elaine Pagels & Michael Eric Dyson	*April 13; 6:30 p.m.*
Julie Taymor	*May 4; 6:30 p.m.*

Thursday
February 3, 2000
6:30 p.m.

$20 general, $15 members,
$18 students and educators

Please call (312) 665-7400 for tickets or more information about the African Heritage Festival.

The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their long-standing, generous support of the Museum through the Chicago Park District.

This program is partially supported with funds from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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